

In the specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 6: Please replace the second sentence of the paragraph beginning on line 15 with the following:

-- Records (120) are input and a full-covariance Gaussian clustering of the records is undertaken for every class (122). --

Page 7: Please replace the last sentence of the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following:

-- If the optimization converges (132), then all of the records x are transformed into $y = qx$, and the resulting output (134) represents the final features for the classifier 108 (*see* Fig. 1). --

Page 15: Please replace the second sentence of the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following:

-- The baseline system had 2.3 K context dependent HMM states and 134K diagonal Gaussian mixture components and was trained on approximately 70 hours of data. --

Please replace the first sentence of the paragraph beginning on line 6 with the following:

-- For the divergence and Bhattacharyya projections, every 9 consecutive 24-dimensional cepstral vectors were spliced together forming 216-dimensional feature vectors which were then clustered to estimate one full covariance Gaussian density for each state. --

Please replace the second sentence of the paragraph beginning on line 12 with the following:

-- The best results were obtained by considering each individual HMM state as a separate class, with the priors of the Gaussians summing up to one across states. --

Page 16: Please replace the one sentence paragraph beginning on line 4 with the following:

-- The routine performs an iterative update of the inverse of the Hessian of the objective function by accumulating curvature information during the optimization. --

Please replace the first sentence of the paragraph beginning on line 8 with the following:

-- The parameters of the baseline system (with 134K Gaussians) were then re-estimated in the transformed spaces using the EM algorithm. --